

On January 22, 1941, shortly after Camp Polk was activated, construction of a 600-bed station hospital began. Opened on March 17, 1941, as an infirmary commanded by Colonel William Dow, MC, the hospital admitted its first patient in May 1941. In 1942, the hospital continued to expand to accommodate the Soldiers housed in the newly built North Fort Polk and prisoners of war from the camp that was located on what is now Honor Field. Continuing its growth, the hospital was designated a regional hospital in June 1944. The hospital was inactivated on December 31, 1946, at the end of World War II.

The hospital was reactivated with 150 beds in August 1950 when the outbreak of hostilities in Korea occurred. By the end of the year, the hospital had been expanded to 500 beds. In 1954, the post and the hospital were again inactivated. Reactivated in 1956, the hospital was gradually reduced to no activity by June 1959 and closed in August of that same year.

In September 1961, the hospital was reopened and manned by the 829th Station Hospital, an Army Reserve unit from Florida. Five active field units were assigned to the hospital in August 1962 and the capacity was increased to 200 beds. Expanded to 250 beds in 1965, the hospital's staffing was reduced with the deployment of two of the assigned units to Japan and Vietnam.

In 1966, as a result of heightened involvement in Southeast Asia and Fort Polk's role as a major training center, the hospital capacity was increased to 570 beds and nine dispensaries manned by the hospital. Also, that year an accreditation committee was formed and in 1967 the hospital received full accreditation from the Joint Commission.

In June 1973, the hospital was reassigned from the Continental Army Command to the Health Services Command. In February 1980, it was renamed from the U.S. Army Hospital, Fort Polk, to U.S. Army Community Hospital, Fort Polk.

Ground was broken for the new 169-bed Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital (BJACH) in June 1978. The hospital was dedicated and formally opened on August 12, 1983. The facility was named in honor of Brigadier General Stanhope Bayne-Jones, MC, U.S. Army, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana. A bacteriologist and preventive medicine specialist, General Bayne-Jones achieved worldwide acclaim as the individual responsible for the control of typhus in Europe at the conclusion of World War II. He died in 1970 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1991, while the Fort Polk MEDDAC was a subordinate command of the U.S. Army Medical Command (MEDCOM)), it became one of the elements of the Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) region, which is now known as the Great Plains Regional Medical Command (GPRMC). Both MEDCOM and GPRMC, are located at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1995, Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital (BJACH) achieved a 97

percent rating and commendation on the Joint Commission inspection. This achievement was repeated in 1998 placing BJACH in the top three percent of hospitals in the nation. In 2001, BJACH excelled once again, scoring a 94 percent rating. In 2004, BJACH was the first DOD MTF to be surveyed under the new tracer methodology and received numerous accolades; "above the mainstream," from the Joint Commission. BJACH continued to excel in 2007, being the first DOD MTF to be surveyed under the new rigorous 2007 standards, passing with "a very good survey," according to the surveyors.

In 2004 BJACH received the prestigious TRICARE award for the highest customer satisfaction in OB care in the Department of Defense; its Logistics Division was named "the best Logistics Division in the AMEDD" by the Command Logistics Review team and the Data Quality Management Program was recognized by the Army Surgeon General's Office as the model for the Army Medical Department. The American Red Cross also presented BJACH with the Regional Level II Good Neighbor Award and for the last two years BJACH's websites have been awarded the TRICARE Gold Star Award for meeting 15 of 15 most essential elements for TRICARE websites set by the TRICARE Management Activity.

Since September 11, 2001, the U.S. Army MEDDAC, Fort Polk, has contributed to the Global War on Terrorism by deploying providers and medical support staff in support of Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In addition, it has provided medical support to Fort Polk as a Power Projection Platform to ensure over 70,000 Soldiers were medically fit to deploy in harm's way. As these soldiers returned home, MEDDAC has redeployed over 25,000 Soldiers.

On June 1, 2005, BJACH was awarded the Army Superior Unit Award for meritorious performance of a difficult and challenging mission. From October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2004, BJACH ensured the medical deployability of over 32,000 Active Component and Reserve Component Soldiers, developed one of the first Reserve Component Case Management Programs, and the first Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Counseling Program for redeployed Soldiers, while maintaining quality care for the rest of its beneficiaries.

In late August and September, 2005, BJACH and Louisiana faced two Category 5 hurricanes in less than 45 days of each other. Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans leaving its mark on the shores of Lake Pontchartrain and in the Ninth Ward. Many 4010th Reserve Hospital Soldiers, who had been activated to help continue BJACH's mission and help operate the Soldier Readiness Processing site, lost their homes and even some family members to the storm. On September 24, Hurricane Rita hit Louisiana around Port Arthur, Texas, and headed inland up the Sabine River. Over 20 parishes were declared federal disaster areas to include Vernon, Beauregard and Sabine Parishes. Fort Polk and BJACH sustained major damage and a complete power outage. BJACH operated on generator power for four days before their electricity was restored, however BJACH's Emergency Room remained open during the storm. In order to

continue to serve the Fort Polk community, BJACH's hurricane staff converted the Same Day Surgery area into a Same Day Appointment Clinic so patients could be seen when the installation reopened. Hurricane Rita left Vernon Parish without power and water for 12 days, while Beauregard Parish was without water and power for several weeks due to the relay station out of Lake Charles being destroyed. Despite the lack of power and water plus personal hardships, BJACH's staff – both military and civilian – kept providing medical care to its beneficiaries.

Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital has become one of the premiere Army facilities where the staff clearly lives up to their motto, "*We Provide the Best.*"